

## **2010 Iowa Legislative Actions Supporting Disaster Recovery and Preparedness**

### **4-27-10 Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council Meeting**

#### **RIO focused on three legislative proposals for 2010:**

- Establish a permanent case management system (HF2422 signed 3/22/10)
- Establish Smart Planning (SF2389 signed 4/26/10)
- Watershed/Floodplain Management (HF2459 signed 4/7/10 and HF2531 not yet signed)

#### **All 12 RIAC Recommendations Received Legislative Consideration in 2010:**

##### **Recommendation #1 - Iowa will provide support to individuals and families seeking assistance in rebuilding**

- HF2422 helps make individual case management system implemented after 2008 disasters permanently available for future disaster victims. (Signed 3/22/10)
- HF2294 utilizes local Long-Term Recovery Committees established via case management system to administer a voucher program to distribute individual assistance funds in smaller disasters. (Signed 3/22/10)

##### **Recommendation #2 - State and local governments should prioritize availability and affordability of adequate, affordable housing**

- HF2531 (Standing Appropriations Bill) contains a provision authorizing Iowa Finance Authority to utilize Housing Trust Fund monies to support the Iowa Mortgage Help Initiative. (Not Yet Signed)

##### **Recommendation #3 - The state should provide incentives for Iowa's small businesses, microenterprises, and non-profits for restoration and rebuilding of their businesses from this disaster and future major disasters.**

- HF2422 establishes a Business Disaster Recovery Task Force to outline recommendations for business disaster recovery. (Signed 3/22/10)
- SF2389 (RIIF Bill) appropriates \$20K for the development of a business assistance internet site by IDED and \$5M for the development and funding of a small business loan program – Save our Small Businesses Fund. (Signed 4/26/10)

##### **Recommendation #4 - The state should lead in planning, establishing expectations statewide, and securing funding for infrastructure repair, rebuilding, and/or construction.**

##### **\$72.2 million in one-time disaster funding appropriated for infrastructure:**

- HF2531 (Standing Appropriations Bill) contains \$4.5 million for Linn County's administrative building and \$2.1 million for the federal courthouse in Cedar Rapids. (Not Yet Signed)

- HF2389 (RIIF Bill) contains I-JOBS funding for projects in Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Des Moines, Polk County, Mason City, Davenport, Waterloo, Iowa City, Belmond, Norwalk, Jesup, and West Union. Plus \$30 million for a Disaster Prevention Program (see RIAC Goal #8) and \$2 million for the Watershed Improvement Review Board for wetland easements and flood prevention (see RIAC Goal #9.) (Signed 4/26/10)

**Recommendation #5 - The state should identify, create, and sustain funding options and provide flexibility for local and state governments to assist in rebuilding an even better Iowa.**

- HF2531 (Standing Appropriations Bill) provides more flexibility on dates that a bond issue vote may be scheduled in disaster-impacted communities. (Not Yet Signed)
- SF2310 (Natural Resources Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund) outlines implementation of a proposed amendment to the Iowa Constitution. (Signed 4/23/10)

**Recommendation #6 - The state must invest in local emergency management agencies to achieve the baseline capacity needed to keep Iowa safer from future disasters.**

- Budget constraints made this difficult to address in 2010

**Recommendation #7 - The state should ensure policy and programs that sustain community identity, quality of life, and cultural heritage.**

- SF 2380 (Tax Credit Changes) retains the Historic Preservation Tax Credit program but reduces its cap from \$50M to \$45M beginning 7/1/12. (Signed 4/15/10)
- SF2389 (RIIF Bill) appropriates \$12M for Community Attraction and Tourism grant funding and \$4M for River Enhancement Community Attraction grant funding, plus funding for Main Street projects (Signed 4/26/10)

**Recommendation #8 - The state will lead in developing guidance for and support for integrated, regional planning to address recovery and leverage multi-jurisdictional strengths for ongoing initiatives.**

- SF 2389 (RIIF Bill) establishes Smart Planning.(Signed 4/26/10)
  - Ten Smart Planning Principles
    1. Collaboration. Stakeholder, Community & Regional Collaboration in Development Decisions.
    2. Efficiency, Transparency and Consistency. Predictable, Fair & Cost Effective Development Decisions.
    3. Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy. Clean Energy Production & Increased Energy Efficiency.
    4. Occupational Diversity. Increase Diversity of Job & Business Opportunities.
    5. Revitalization. Concentrate Development & Mix Land Uses
    6. Housing Diversity. Expand Housing Opportunities & Choices.

7. Community Character. Foster Distinctive, Attractive Communities with a Strong Sense of Place.
  8. Natural Resources and Agricultural Protection. Protect, Preserve & Wisely Utilize Natural Resources & Working Lands.
  9. Sustainable Design. Green Building & Infrastructure Design.
  10. Transportation Diversity. Variety of Transportation Choices.
- Comprehensive Planning Guidance for cities and counties
  - Smart Planning Task Force to develop statewide planning goals, evaluate and develop incentives for comprehensive planning, develop a model for regional comprehensive planning, and develop recommendations for state comprehensive planning programs
  - \$30 Million Disaster Prevention Program created with I-JOBS funding, eligibility contingent on following Smart Planning.

**Recommendation #9 - The state will move state policy forward and lead regional and local discussion on floodplain and watershed management.**

- Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC) generated 16 policy recommendations
- SF2316 addressed 12 policy recommendations and passed the Senate but did not pass the House Committee
  - Just 5 policy recommendations PASSED in other bills:
    - HF2531 (Standing Appropriations Bill) requires the WRCC and others *to extent feasible* to **1)** work on establishing an Iowa chapter of State Floodplain Managers Association, **2)** education and **3)** marketing for flood risks and floodplain awareness. (Not Yet Signed)
    - HF2459 (Watershed Bill) **4)** authorizes that funding be sought for pilot watershed projects involving IDALS, DNR and the Iowa Flood Center, and **5)** outlines potential watershed governance via Watershed Management Authorities (Signed 4/7/10)
  - Policy recommendations included in SF2316 but NOT PASSED in 2010:
    - Regulate the .2% (500-year) floodplain (or a model ordinance)
    - Establish stormwater standards (or best practices)
    - Enhance safety for critical facilities (require continued operation or safe cessation during 500-year flood event)
    - Hydrological tiling study
    - WRCC to make watershed management recommendations by 11/15/10
    - Integrate multipurpose wetlands into watersheds
    - Update conservation practice criteria to reflect changing precipitation
  - Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC) made 9 funding recommendations

- Budget constraints made this difficult to address in 2010
- HF2389 (RIIF Bill) appropriates \$2 million for the Watershed Improvement Review Board for wetland easements and flood prevention. (Signed 4/26/10)

**Recommendation #10 - The state will complete floodplain mapping for the entire state using state-of-the-art technology, implementing the mapping process as expeditiously as is reasonable and practical.**

- DNR continues to coordinate this effort through CDBG funding
- The Iowa Flood Center will continue to play a major role with a specific allocation of existing CDBG funds in SF2389 (RIIF Bill). (Signed 4/26/10)

**Recommendation #11 - The state must formalize the Rebuild Iowa Office and associated responsibilities related to the 2008 Disaster recovery.**

- SF2367 appropriates \$647,014 to support RIO during FY11 (Not Yet Signed)
  - 12 FTEs were maintained
  - Additional RIO funding is provided through federal sources

**Recommendation #12 - All involved agencies, governments, and interested parties should support communications and outreach initiatives to educate and support Iowans as they recover and plan for future disasters.**

- A big “thank you” to members of the Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council for your important role in addressing this recommendation!